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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 9/69

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 NSC-10 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
 NSAE-00 L-04 DODE-00 AID-28 RSR-01 /092 W  
 ----- 073371

R 211046Z AUG 70

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9660

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5706~~

SUBJ: DELINEATION OF THAI/LAO BOUNDARY IN  
 MEKONG RIVER

REF: STATE 135079

1. DURING LAO/THAI TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS BANGKOK  
 APRIL 16-23 AND SIMILAR TALKS NOW UNDERWAY VIENTIANE,  
 THAIS RAISED WITH LAO QUESTION OF DEFINING THEIR  
 BORDERS SINCE AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH FRENCH IN 1904,  
 1907 AND 1926 APPEAR NO LONGER VALID.

2. LAO, WHO HAVE PREFERRED DISCUSS BREAD-BUTTER  
 QUESTIONS SUCH AS TRADE AND TRANSIT, AUG 20 TOLD THAIS  
 BORDER QUESTION OF EXTREME COMPLEXITY AND JOINT  
 LAT/THAI SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD PREPARE EXHAUSTIVE  
 AND DETAILED STUDIES.

3. IN VIEW SENSITIVITY BOTH COUNTRIES RE DEFINITION

THEIR BORDERS, BELIEVE THAT USG SHOULD, UNDER NO  
 CIRCUMSTANCES, BECOME INVOLVED IN ONE WAY OR  
 ANOTHER WITH DEFINING LAO/THAI  
 BORDER. DECON 8/71.  
 GODLEY

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